

1. A beverage filter cartridge comprising:
  - an impermeable cup-shaped container having a substantially flat first bottom and a first side wall diverging upwardly from said first bottom to a collar surrounding a top opening;
  - a filter element having a substantially flat second bottom and a second side wall diverging upwardly from said second bottom to an upper rim, said filter element being received in said container with said second bottom spaced both inwardly from said first side wall and vertically from said first bottom, and with said upper rim joined at a peripheral juncture to the interior of said first side wall, the interior of said container thus being subdivided by said filter element into a first chamber accessible via said top opening, and a second chamber disposed between said first and second bottoms, said second side wall coacting with the interior of said first side wall to define exit channels leading from said peripheral juncture to said second chamber;
  - a beverage medium received in said first chamber via said top opening; and
  - an impermeable cover sealed to said collar and closing said top opening, said cover being piercable to admit liquid into said first chamber for impulsion with said beverage medium to produce a beverage, said filter element being permeable to accommodate the flow therethrough of said beverage for delivery via said channels to said second chamber, and said first bottom being piercable to accommodate an outflow of said beverage from said cartridge.

2. The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein said first and second bottoms are substantially parallel.

3. The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein said channels are defined by flutes in said second side wall.

4. The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein said channels are defined by pleats in said second side wall.

5. The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein said second side wall extends downwardly from said peripheral juncture and away from said first side wall at an angle of less than about  $1^{\circ}$ .

6. The beverage filter cartridge of claim 5 wherein said angle is between about  $0.5^{\circ}$  to  $0.9^{\circ}$ .

7. The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein the height of said first chamber is measured between said second bottoms and said cover is between about 75 to 80% of the height of the interior of said cartridge as measured between said first bottom and said cover.

8. The beverage filter cartridge of claim 4 wherein said channels increase in width from a minimum adjacent said peripheral juncture to a maximum at said second chamber.

9. The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein the permeability of a lower region of said filter element is reduced in comparison to the permeability of an upper region thereof.

10. The beverage filter cartridge of claim 9 wherein said reduced permeability is achieved by increasing the thickness of said filter element in said lower region.

11. The beverage filter cartridge of claim 10 wherein said increased thickness is achieved by lining the lower region of said filter element with a cup-shaped insert of the same or like filter material.